

Joint Committee on Veteran's and Military Affairs  
Meeting Minutes - May 10, 2010  
Camp Murray, Washington

Members present: Representatives Bailey, Morrell, O'Brien, Hurst;  
Senators Hobbs, Roach, Franklin, Carrell.

The meeting began at 1:00 pm.

Senator Hobbs called the meeting to order. Senator Hobbs made a motion to adopt the draft minutes from the December 2, 2009 minutes. Representative Bailey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted by a vote of the members present.

Senator Hobbs called for a discussion of future meeting dates and locations. Representative Bailey suggested the Committee hold a meeting at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Representative Hurst suggested a meeting in Bremerton Naval Base.

Senator Hobbs called for a discussion of future agenda items. Representative Bailey suggested the issue of encroachment as it pertains to the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Representative Morrell suggested an update from Director John Lee regarding GAU (General Assistance Unemployable) / GAX (General Assistance Expedited Medicaid) clients, eligibility and the veteran population.

Adam Torem from the Washington State Bar Association (Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section) updated the Committee about the ongoing discussion related to resolving differences between the state and federal Civil Service Member's Relief Act.

John Lee, Director of the Washington State Veterans Administration discussed the recent Veteran Outreach Report. Representative Hurst asked Director Lee about the need to help the transition process for soldiers who return to Washington after they complete their service elsewhere. The current system allows only for a briefing but does not provide for actual services. Director Lee discussed his efforts to move from a briefing status to a service status. Currently, soldiers can opt out of the briefing. Director Lee spoke of the need to remove that option so soldiers are made aware of their options.

Senator Hobbs asked Director Lee about creating a state level internship for wounded warriors modeled on the program that exists at the federal level. Internships could include apprenticeships with unions.

Major General Lowenberg arrived at 1:45 to welcome the members and after brief remarks the meeting adjourned.

Committee members and staff then left the meeting room to tour the Camp Murray Warrior Transition Center.